

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated May 17, 2006. Applicant has amended claim 39 for clarification and cancelled claims 54-56. Claims 39, 41-50, 52-53, 57 and 59-62 are pending upon entry of this amendment.

As a preliminary matter, the Examiner objected to the specification as containing application docket numbers and requested that the docket numbers be replaced with corresponding application serial numbers. Applicant respectfully submits that specification was amended to recite application serial numbers in an amendment filed September 30, 2005.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 39, 41-45, 50, 52-53, 57 and 59-62 are allowable in their present form.

In addition, the Examiner indicated that claims 46-49 would be allowable if the provisional double-patenting rejection was overcome.¹ A Terminal Disclaimer accompanies this Amendment. The disclaimer is made to expedite issuance and is not intended as an admission that any claim of the present application is the same or an obvious variant of those of the cited copending applications. This disclaimer obviates the double patenting rejection and places claims 46-49 in a condition for allowance.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 54-56 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lea (USPN 6,115,373) in view of Ikeda (USPN 5,787,073) and in further view of Lindeborg et al. (USPN 5,646,939) and Hunt (US 6,249,819). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection based on Lea in view of Ikeda as set forth in Applicant's previous remarks. Neither Lindenborg nor Hunt overcome the deficiencies of Lea and Ikeda as set forth by the Applicant in the previous communications. Nevertheless, Applicant has cancelled claims 54-56 to expedite prosecution.

¹ In the Office Action at pg. 6, the Examiner indicated that claims 46-49 and 54-56 would be allowable if the provisional double-patenting rejection was overcome. However, Applicant assumes the Examiner meant to refer only to claims 46-49 due to the rejection of claims 54-56 under 35 USC § 103.

CONCLUSION

All claims in this application are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 50-1778. The Examiner is invited to telephone the below-signed attorney to discuss this application.

Date:

By:

August 14, 2006
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